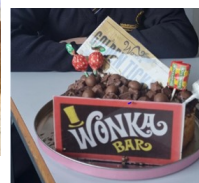




A message from Mrs Jackson, Deputy Headteacher

This week has been a busy one; firstly thank you to all the staff who got involved by dressing up for World Book Day. Snow White and a number of Dwarves, Coraline, the Mr Men and Little Misses were very busy around school amongst many others. Staff have also been sharing with students what they are currently reading and the library was a hive of activities and games all promoting our love of reading. Wednesday was Employability Ready day for students in years 10 and 12. The students arrived in professional business dress and definitely looked ready to work! The day involved a programme of psychometric tests and mock interviews with real employers; a truly valuable experience so many thanks to Ceri Tranter, our Careers Leader, for organising.



Careers—Employability Ready

On Weds 5th March, our Year 10 and 12 students engaged in a collapsed timetable of careers education event getting 'employability ready'. 280 students rotated across a mock assessment centre learning CV and Interviews Skills, being assessed in team activities, explored psychometric tests and had an individual mock interview with a business professional. Our employer representatives were incredibly impressed with the professionalism and talent amongst Melksham Oak pupils.



Attendance Matters—Every minute matters



Hopefully, as the days are becoming longer and warmer, the flu season has now gone. Therefore this is a real opportunity for students to improve attendance! In addition to the termly Amazon voucher rewards for 100% attendance and improvements from previous term, students will now be receiving extra merits for every weekly 100% attendance.

Please encourage students to come into school even if they are tired or not feeling 100%, phone calls can always be made during the day.



Friday 21st March—Non-uniform day

Friday 21st March is a non-uniform day with a voluntary donation of £1 collected on the gate for Comic Relief.



SEND at Melksham Oak

Just a reminder that I will continue to have weekly 'SEND Clinic' appointments which will be a 15-minute online appointment to discuss your child and their SEND needs in school.

Book here— <https://MOCS.schoolcloud.co.uk/> - Miss H Ornov, SENCo

SEND Updates

Staffing:

A massive well done to Mr Lavery and Mr Curtis-Smith who completed their ELSA qualifications last term.

Ms Almond has returned this term in a new role, KS3 HLTA with a focus on Literacy.

We welcome Ms Morris to the team next week as KS4 HLTA with a focus on securing outcomes for our Year 10 and Year 11 students.

We are excited to be welcoming interviewees over the next couple of weeks for recently advertised TA roles.

Wins of the week:

Staff very much enjoyed dressing up this week to celebrate world book day. From Winnie the Pooh to an Oompa Loompa, they went all out! The students very much had a giggle. Mr Lavery even brought in his Pet Tortoise!

I was also treated to a 5 Star cooked breakfast by some of our students who are enhancing their cooking skills at Wiltshire Farm Cookery School. It was very much a perk of the job. Especially as they did the washing up!

I was very impressed with how engaged our Year 10s were in EMPLOYABILITY READY Day. This was a fantastic opportunity to show case them what fantastic opportunities they will be able to access post 16 and when they enter the world of work.

Wiltshire SEND Local Offer

[Wiltshire SEND Support for 0 to 25 - Local Offer](#)

[Wiltshire Local Offer - English BSL](#)

The local offer explains what help and services are available for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities in your local area.

Supporting Literacy at Home

Every student has access to boost their literacy skills through our online literacy platform.

Go onto www.lexiapowerup.com

If asked to enter teachers email –
Ornovh@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk

Username: Your school email address – e.g.
24smitha@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk

Password: ABC1



PE News

Year 7 Netball Match Report

We played John of Gaunt this week which proved to be an equally matched game. The first two quarters saw some great passing sequences from both teams and high pressured marking but no goals. The third quarter despite most of the possession being in MOC's attacking D saw JOG make a quick attack break which resulted in the scoring the first goal of the game. A determined MOC's team broke into the final quarter with some quick paced play which resulted in the team scoring 2 goals and making it 2-1 in the lead. JOG equalised with just two minutes to go and with an extra push just scored a winning goal in the final minute. It was such an exciting game to watch and the MOC's team, as always, did us proud showing great teamwork and sportsmanship attitude.

We currently have 11 players in our 7 squad, but are looking for more to make a second team. It's not too late to join us. Speak to Mrs Sawyer or simply come along to Netball club on Wednesday after school.

Year 8 Netball Match Report

This week, our Year 8 netball team travelled to John of Gaunt in Trowbridge for an exciting away match. The weather was perfect, and the girls were in great spirits as they took to the court. Each match this season has seen the team grow stronger, and their performance continues to improve with every game.

Although John of Gaunt scored the first goal, our girls quickly found their rhythm and regained control of the game. Their passing was precise, and their movement around the court was exceptional. The team was thrilled to secure their first win of the season, and each player can be proud of both their individual performance and their contribution to the team's success.

Next match - Tuesday 11th March away at St. Augustines, Trowbridge.

Year 11 Football Match Report

A competitive game between two good teams. The Melksham defence withstood numerous attacks. The battle of this game was in midfield with plenty of strong challenges. The attack worked hard to put the Commonweal defence under pressure and got their reward after 20 minutes with a goal from Will R. However, Commonweal cancelled out that goal 5 minutes later with one of their own. With both teams looking to triumph in the second half it was Commonweal who looked the most likely to grab the win. However, Will R. had different ideas and finished off a good team move to grab the win with 3 minutes to go. Melksham march on to the quarter finals where they will be on the road to Swindon again.

Year 9/10 Football Match Report

A difficult game for the Year 9/10 team. It was a competitive first half, however they struggled to create many chances. The game became difficult in the second half against good opposition. Heads dropped in the second half and four goals came the way for JOG. It was a learning curve for this team. There were stand out performances from Archie L-M. and Fernley P.

English—Key Stage 4

Using Tassomai for English and hitting the weekly goal is an excellent way for pupils to improve their understanding of key concepts. It is designed to support revision through regular practice to help embed knowledge, improve long-term recall and revisit misconceptions.

Weekly Overview

Year 11:

13776 questions answered and 52hours 54minutes spent revising.

Year 10:

19770 questions answered and 75 hours and 35 minutes spent revising.

Any problems, please find me in L1.

Mrs R Robinson

Head of English

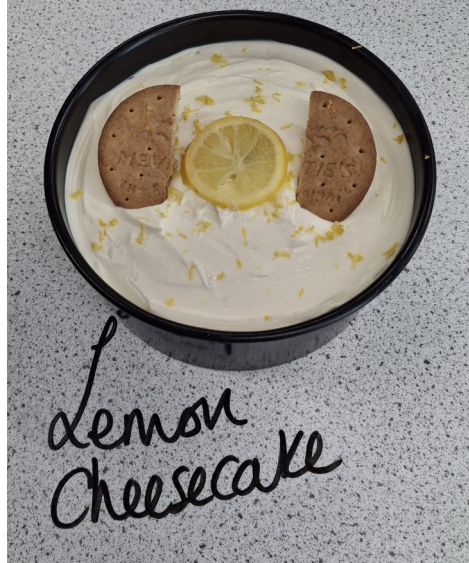


Year 10 Design Technology

Year 10 have been learning about mechanical aeration and this week used whisking to make a cheesecake.



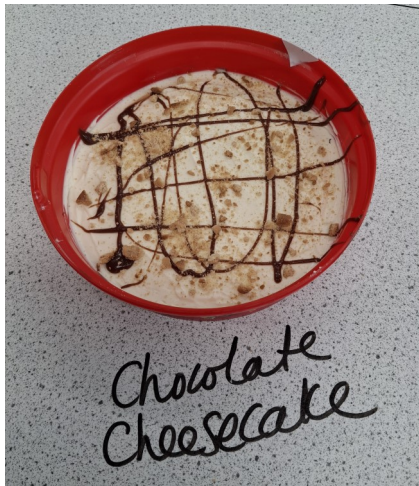
Chocolate
Cheesecake



Lemon
Cheesecake



Lemon
Cheesecake



Chocolate
Cheesecake



Chocolate
Cheesecake



Vanilla +
Raspberry
Cheesecake



A Protecting my child from harm

One form of potential harm is child sexual exploitation. This is a sensitive topic and hard for parents/carers to think about. It is powerful for parents/carers to know what it is and recognise what are the possible signs and where to seek help.

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual, emotional and physical abuse of children.

It can be difficult to recognise the warning signs of child sexual exploitation, as they are similar to the challenges that all parents of adolescent children face.

Child sexual exploitation can be defined in the following terms:

- A person under 18 is sexually exploited when they are coerced into sexual activities by one or more person(s) who have deliberately targeted their youth in order to exercise power over them.
- The process often involves a stage of 'grooming', in which the child might receive something (such as a mobile phone, clothes, drugs or alcohol, attention or affection) prior to, or as a result of, performing sexual activities, or having sexual activities performed on them.
- Child sexual exploitation may occur through the use of technology without the child's consent or immediate recognition; for example through being persuaded to post sexual images online or via mobile phone.
- Child sexual exploitation is often conducted with actual violence or the threat of violence. This may be threats towards the child, or her or his family and may prevent the child from disclosing the abuse, or exiting the cycle of exploitation. Indeed, the child may be so confused by the process, that they do not perceive any abuse at all.

Child sexual exploitation happens when a child has been persuaded that sexual activity is a 'normal' part of adult life.

Adolescence is a time of experimentation and can be a particularly challenging period for parents and their children. Most parents understand the value of young people learning about themselves through new experiences, but also want to protect their child from harm.

Here are some of the signs, that together could indicate your child might be at risk of being sexually exploited.

- Frequently going missing from home or school
- New friends or relationships that are the central focus of the child's life
- Being secretive
- Physical signs of abuse
- Changes in behaviour such as increased anxiety or distress
- unexplained absences from home or school
- Anxiety or urgency around mobile phone use
- Unexplained money, phone or clothes etc
- Drug or alcohol use
- Unexplained injuries or marks

Exploiters of child sexual exploitation are both skilled and strategic; they aim to drive a wedge between parents and their child, closing down the normal channels of communication and breaking the emotional bond.

The Ivison Trust is a valuable source of support:

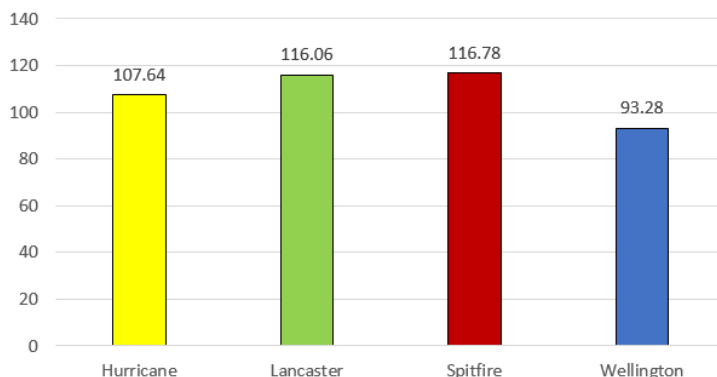
[Protecting children, supporting families - Ivison Trust.](#)

You can always seek help from us at school so please reach out if you have any concerns or need advice/support.



Merits

Average Merits per Student



Key Contacts

In the first instance please contact your child’s tutor, who will be best placed to answer your query or direct you to the best person who can give you an answer. Details of the pastoral team are below:

Pastoral Manager

Ms A. Berry berrya@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk

Heads of Year

Year 7	Mrs H. Pearce	pearceh@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
Year 8	Miss S. Abraham	abrahams@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
Year 9	Mr L. Ballinger	ballingerl@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
Year 10	Mrs C. Hughes	hughesc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
Year 11	Mr J. Oatley	oatleyj@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
6th Form	Ms R. Cooper	cooperr@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk

To e-mail any other staff member please e-mail admin@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk with a subject line of FAO: <staff name>

Head of Careers Education

Ms C. Tranter tranterc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk



Upcoming Events



- Thursday 13th March to Sunday 16th March:** Berlin History and Media Trip (Sixth Form)
- Tuesday 18th March:** Student HPV Vaccines (Year 8)
- Wednesday 19th March:** Safe drive workshop (Sixth Form)
- Thursday 20th March:** Year 8 Parents’ Evening
- Friday 21st March:** Red-nose day, non-uniform day. Donations of £1 to comic relief.



FUEL programme – Easter 2025

We are delighted that the Department for Education has confirmed funding for the FUEL programme to run at Easter, Summer and Christmas in 2025. The programme is funded to provide activities and meals free of charge for children who are eligible for benefit related Free School Meals.

All families who have previously booked onto the programme will be notified directly when booking is open. We would love to support more children in 2025 and welcome your support with encouraging families to book places on activities.

Places can also be requested for children who are refugees, are in care, are young carers or who may be vulnerable during the school holidays. The number of places available for these children are limited but we do our best to support as many as we can.

Families can make and manage bookings on our [FUEL booking system](#). More information about the programme and eligibility is also available on our [website](#), booking opens on **6 March and will close on 30 March**.

Resources for promoting the programme are also available on [Right Choice](#).

If you have any questions, please feel free to email fuelprogramme@wiltshire.gov.uk



Wiltshire & Swindon Inclusion Newsletter

March 2025



Football

- YuGo SEND Football- **Wednesday 19th March** at FA Headquarters, Devizes (Contact: max.pemberton@allsortsglos.org.uk)
- SEND Shooting Stars Inspired Event- **Thursday 15th May** at Abbeyfield School, Chippenham 10am-12noon (Contact: rachel.bown@ffc.ac.uk)
- Disney Inspired 'Shooting Stars' SEND face to face CPD- **Thursday 5th June** at Abbeyfield School. Chippenham, 3.30-5.30pm (Contact: rachel.bown@ffc.ac.uk)

School Swimming and Water Safety

Swim England: Supporting Pupils with SEND in School Swimming- **Thurs 20th March** 9am-4pm at Trowbridge Sports Centre. (Contact: rachel.bown@ffc.ac.uk)

- The [Oscar the Otter Water Safety Education Film](#) and accompanying lesson plans have been co-designed with the Lead Inclusion Schools and their pupils, to help children to stay safe in water.
- Swim England have also produced an [Online Assessment Tool](#) to allow swimming lesson providers and schools the opportunity to identify the strengths of their school swimming programme and to recognise any areas of potential development.

For further support, read the guidance document: [Safe Supervision of Programmed Swimming Lessons and Training Sessions in Swimming Pools](#)

The Swindon & Wiltshire Rainbow Shower Event.

Messy colourful fun for children of all ages & abilities with additional needs- **Wednesday 18th June** at Lavington School, 10.30am-12noon

(Contact: rachel.bown@ffc.ac.uk)






Melksham Oak
Community School



Newsletter

Friday 7th March





**“There are grooves,
there’s joy, there’s
heartfelt reflection -
and some (voluntary)
audience participation!”**
Raph Clarkson



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